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APPROVED FOR RELEASE 1993
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

8 April 1968

JFK ACT
10.19.99
RELEASE

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Security Research Staff

SUBJECT : [redacted] REPORT FROM

1. [redacted] called me this morning at the office to thank me [redacted]

2. [redacted] advised that [redacted] was not in evidence on TV following the assassination of Martin Luther KING on Thursday, 4 April 1968. [redacted] received word from a reliable source that [redacted] who is under Peking discipline, was instructed not to be in the forefront. [redacted]

[redacted] and other leaders in the Black Power structure who are under Peking discipline will hold a strategy meeting in the Reverend KING's home after the funeral.

3. [redacted]

[redacted] urges that a task force be established not by the FBI but by the intelligence community to cover [redacted] from now on in which should develop the intelligence that [redacted] Martin Luther KING, and [redacted] have for years been the willing tools of Peking.

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL

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18093

2 COPY OF 2

SUBJECT: Notes Made During Conversations with
in New York City 26 February 1965

8. Source states Martin Luther King is a homosexual and a "Switch Hitter".

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The postal card mailed to Mr. McCone is one of a series issued by the John Birch Society through its book outlets, the American Opinion Book Shops; through local chapters, and by mail from its publication, American Opinion, Belmont, Massachusetts.

The photograph of Subject on this particular card in the Birch Society series has received wide distribution in the past, generally by purportedly anti-Communist or segregationist groups. It may be recalled that a billboard size reproduction appeared along the route of march of the Selma, Alabama, protests.

The photograph was taken from a newspaper-size release on the Highlander Folk School, published in 1957 by the Georgia State Commission on Education, Atlanta, Georgia. The publication contains two photographs of the Subject taken, it is claimed, during a Labor Day weekend session at Highlander in 1957. The Subject is depicted in the other photograph as he addresses the assembly.

The Highlander Folk School was organized about 1932 by Myles Horton and Don West, the latter an organizer of the Communist Party of the United States.

Public testimony on the School reflects that Paul Crouch, a former functionary of the Communist Party, testified the school was "ostensibly an independent labor school, but actually working in close cooperation with the Communist Party." The Georgia State Commission on Education report, a copy of which is attached, reflects the public record communist-front records of the claimed leadership of the Highlander Folk School and of those attending its Labor Day, 1957, function.

In testimony before the House Committee on Un-American activities in July 1947, Walter S. Steele testified that the Highlander School "unquestionably keeps pretty close to the (Communist) Party line. Its directors, James Dombrowski and Myles Horton are found in the company of Red-Frontera. It has been a recipient of funds from the Robert Marshall Foundation, which so lavishly contributed to Friends of Democracy, American Youth Congress, National Negro Congress, Southern Negro Youth Congress, and other fronts." It may be noted that the American Youth Congress, the National Negro Congress and the Southern Negro Congress have been cited by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

In November 1957 a jury at Altamont, Tennessee, found the school to be operating in violation of its State charter. Charges in the charter revocation trial were based on alleged violation of State segregation laws. The school then moved to the Carolina Sea Islands where it continued its

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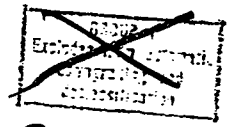

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courses. Later the school was reestablished at Knoxville, Tennessee, under the name of Highlander Research and Education Center.

In June 1963, police raided a Highlander Work Camp near Townsend, Tennessee, and arrested a number of persons for charges ranging from lewdness and disorderly conduct to possession of whiskey. The directors of the camp were bound over to the Grand Jury on charges of contributing to the delinquency of minors. Charges of lewdness were dismissed against seven defendants. Officers had testified at finding males and females, nude from the waist up, in a tent at the time of the raid. A total of 27 persons had been arrested.

In June 1963, three persons previously identified with Highlander were arrested as a "drunken sex orgy" in Knoxville, Tennessee.

In October 1963, Dr. James A. Dombrowski, one of the early founding officials of the school was charged with subversive activity under Louisiana's Subversive Control Act. His conviction was reversed by a higher court, but evidence seized at his offices served as documentation in reports of a Louisiana Legislative Commission report on Communist activities in that State.

In May 1965 another government agency reported that the Highlander Research and Education Center was building a summer camp in Blount County, Tennessee, near the Great Smokey National Park, and there was some apprehension at a proposed visit by Subject to the camp. According to the report, lesser members of the United Klans of America were discussing the possible assassination of Subject and the inciting of riots, while senior Klan officials were advocating peaceful protest. The Klan leadership, it was reported, was fearful that some harm might come to Subject, and whether performed by Klansmen or not, would be blamed on the Klan. The Klan was reportedly discussing attempts to dissuade Subject from visiting the camp.

A confidential source of another government agency has advised [redacted] has openly associated with CPUSA members over a period of years and had knowingly allowed Communists to enroll and speak at the school. The informant advised that Communists had been known to be on the school staff, but that the school is "not controlled entirely" by Communists. He described the school as a "progressive labor school" which welcomes Communists among its students.